



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Green Buildings – Caltrans District HQ receives certification** – The state of California has recently established a “Green California” initiative that includes a “Green Buildings” program. As part of this program the new Caltrans District 7 Headquarters Building located in downtown Los Angeles has received a “silver” certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for New Construction (LEED-NC). The scoring system for the certification was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council and addresses a variety of resource and sustainability topics including storm water quantity and quality. For example, new buildings must meet numeric goals for reducing impervious surfaces. See: <http://www.green.ca.gov/GreenBuildings/newconst.htm>

**Proposed "Stormwater Enforcement and Permitting Act of 2006" – Federal legislation would change general permits** – The proposed bill, H.R. 5558, is primarily intended to reduce storm water requirements on residential home builders when they discharge into municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) or are building on a site with minimal potential for soil erosion. However, the bill also would change all NPDES general permits by establishing that permitting agencies are “not required to specifically review, approve, or provide notice and an opportunity for a public hearing and comment on, any application for a discharge under a general permit issued under this section.” States are currently struggling to incorporate state and public review provisions into their general permits as required by court decisions (see *NewsFlash* 05-39). Draft bill: <http://thomas.loc.gov/> (Search H. R. 5558)

**LA MS4 Permit – Regional Board delays decision to reopen permit to implement dry weather bacteria TMDL** – As discussed in *NewsFlash* 06-23, the Los Angeles Regional Board is proposing to reopen the storm water permit regulating LA County and the associated cities. The Board’s intent is to include provisions from the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Federal regulations require that NPDES permits be consistent with the waste load allocations in TMDLs. For the dry weather TMDL, the waste load allocations are expressed as the number of allowable days that the beaches may exceed the bacteria standards specified in the Basin Plan. During *summer* dry weather, the TMDL requires that there be no exceedances at the point where the storm drain effluent initially mixes with the receiving ocean water (this mixing zone is called the “wave wash”).

The Board has requested “suggestions on how the summer dry weather waste load allocation of no exceedance days ...should be translated into enforceable permit requirements...” This TMDL, as well as other Southern California TMDLs, are being developed to comply with deadlines set in a federal court consent decree. The new hearing date is September 14. A workshop will be held July 20 at the Board to receive comments and suggestions. Written comments are due July 19. See related public notices: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/public\\_notices.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/meetings/public_notices.html)

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>